



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>  
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>  
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**May 2, 2021**

**In-Person Services:** Our next in-person outdoor service will be **TODAY at 5:00 PM**. On **May 9 at 8:30 AM** there will be an indoor service in Hinman Hall. These services will be offered biweekly and we ask that you RSVP. Masks are required for both indoor and outdoor services.

**Additional Information Sessions:** We invite you to attend two additional Information Sessions about the flexible sanctuary seating proposal. These sessions will be an opportunity to hear more about the proposal, the decision-making process thus far, benefits of this change, and what replacements and flexible seating might look like. Additionally, these sessions are a chance for every member to ask questions and offer feedback as the Congregation Council continues the process of discerning how to move forward. We encourage everyone to attend via Zoom **TODAY at 1:00 PM**, Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86778382436> or in person on **May 16 at 6:00 PM**, following the 5:00 PM Outdoor Service.

**Cross Roads Camp:** Next Sunday **May 9 is Camp Sunday**, a fun service and a great chance to engage with our wonderful camp and retreat center. **Registration is now open** for [summer youth camp and family camp](#)—including weekend options. [Bishops' Cup Golf Outing](#) is **June 14**; this is great way to support our camp and have some fun outdoors on the golf course.

**The NJ Synod Assembly** will be held virtually on **May 7–8, 2021**. Visitors will not need to register. A Livestream of all assembly sessions will be available through the Synod's YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/njsynodelca](http://www.youtube.com/njsynodelca)). Pastor Gladys G. Moore will be preaching at the Opening Service, **May 7 at 6:45 PM**. Our voting members are Jane Bowman, Wayne Dietterick, Deacon Linda Walker, and Pastor Blake Scalet.

**Wednesday Evening Prayer:** Our last Evening Prayer service will be **May 19**. You will be able to watch previous services on Facebook and YouTube.

**Bridges Outreach** is currently doing runs into Newark seven days a week. The need is very great. They are happy to receive donations of lunches **daily from 8:30–4:30**. Lunches need to be taken to the Bridges office, call 908-273-0176 to inform them you are bringing lunches.

**Zoom Children's Time**, May 16 at **9:30 AM**. Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86580617100>.

**Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM** on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Our last evening prayer will be May 19.

**Giving Is Important.** We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

**Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM** on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit) or our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ](http://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ) **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

### **Prayer Before Worship**

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1*

**PRELUDE** Setting of “Aus Meines Herzens Grunde”

By J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Virtual Recorder Ensemble

*My inmost heart now raises, in this fair morning hour, a song of thankful praises  
to Thine Almighty pow'r; And so I have begun this day, my God, my life  
shall be begun and closed with praise to Thee, through Christ Thy only Son.*

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

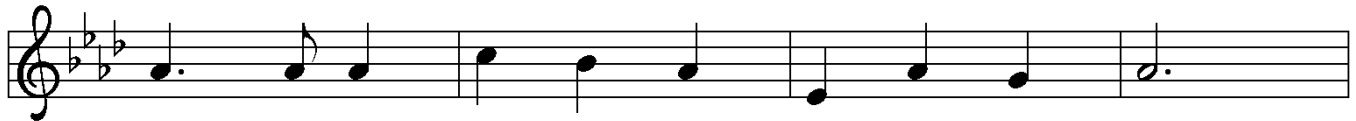
We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

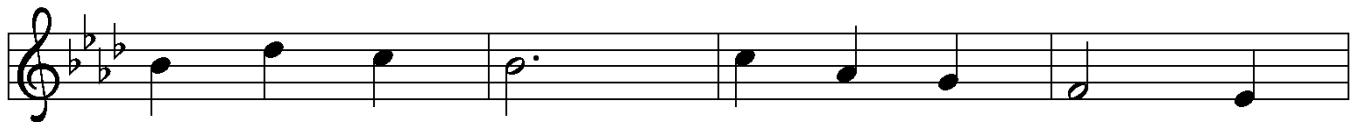
GATHERING HYMN ELW 377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



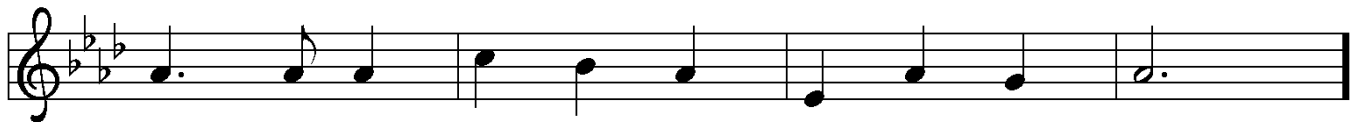
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,

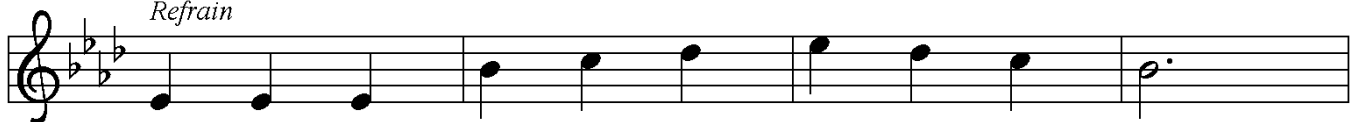


Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

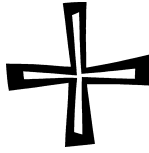
*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!



## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

### *Verse 5*

Hal - le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.  
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:  
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### **FIRST READING** Acts 8:26–40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING** 1 John 4:7–21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

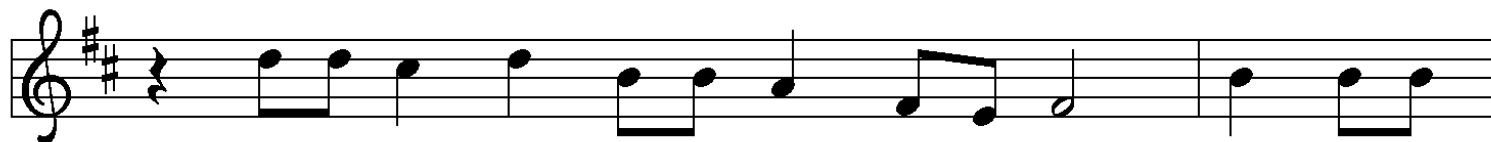
<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

<sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

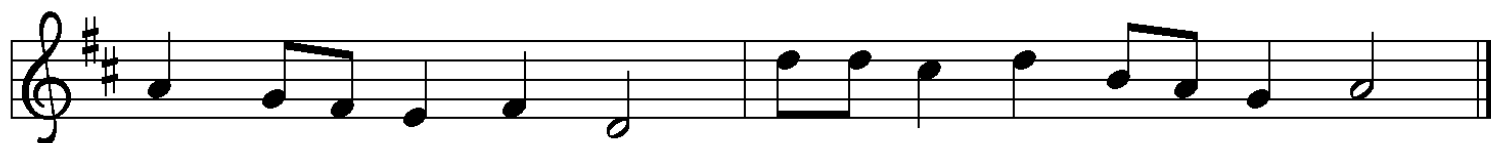
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL John 15:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

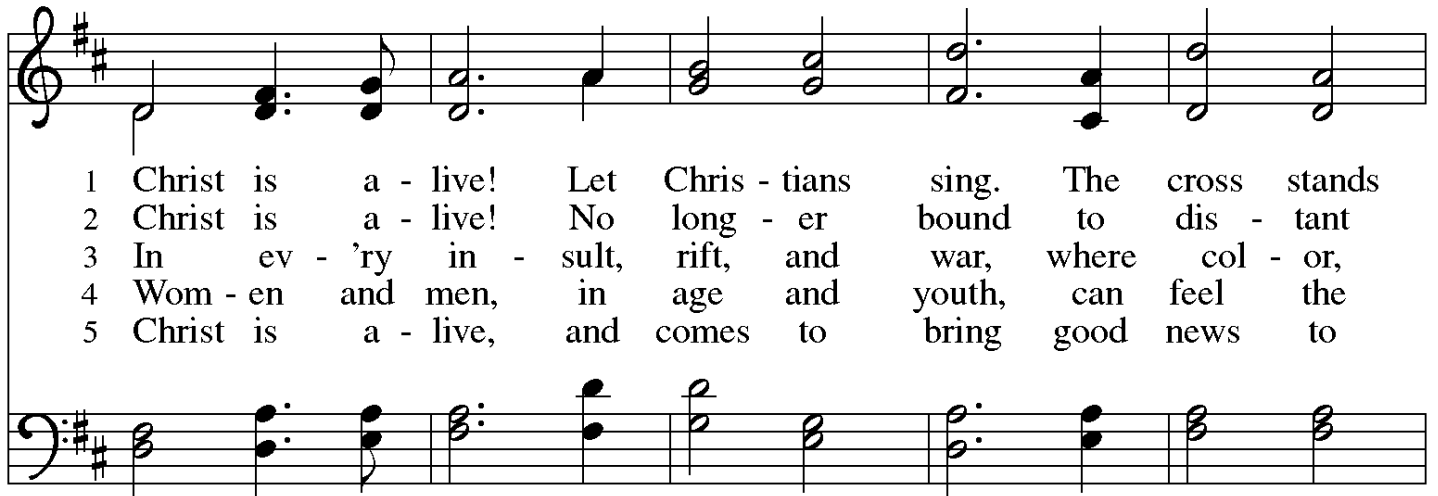
[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

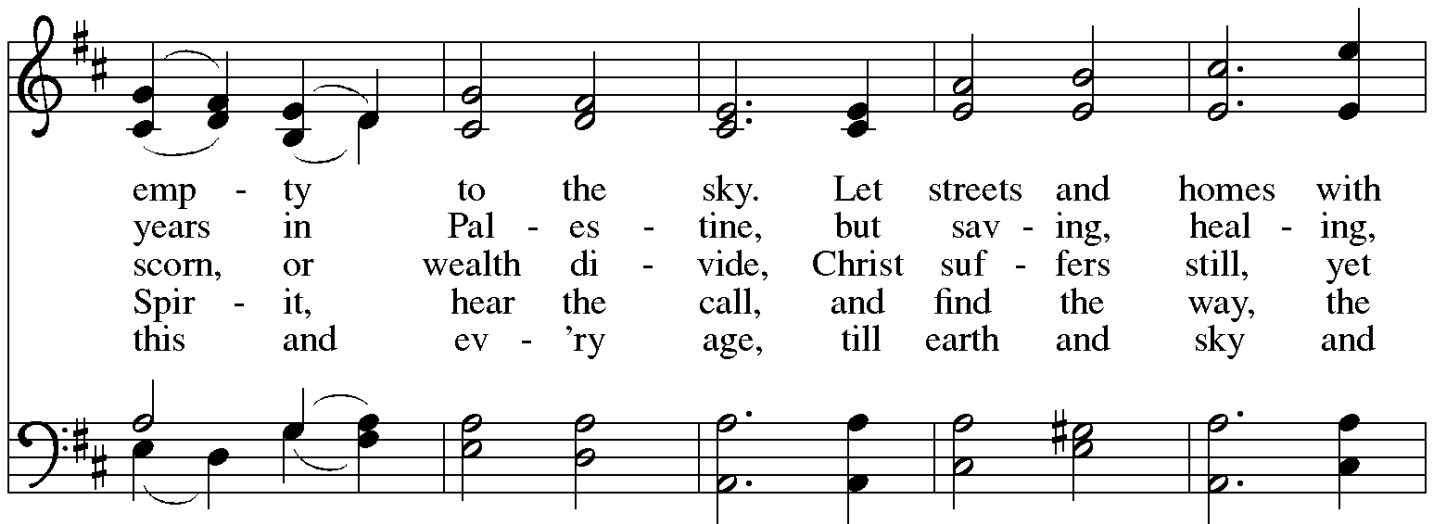
## SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

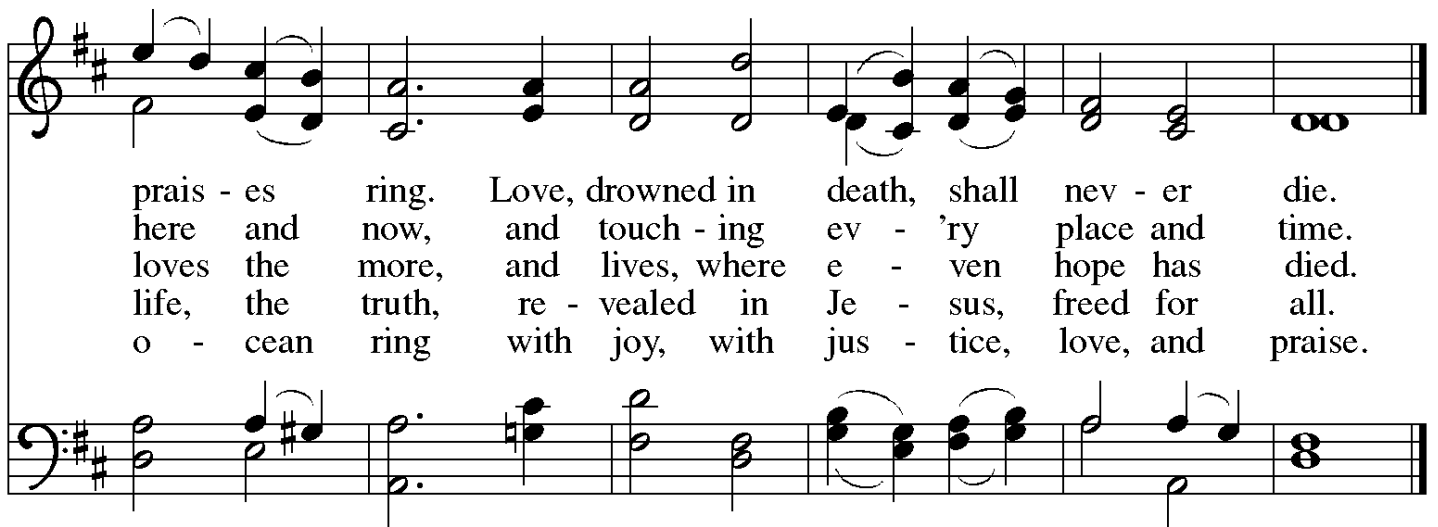
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*We present monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission through this congregation. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org](http://www.stjohnssummit.org).*

**OFFERING MUSIC** Setting of "Christ Is Alive"

Arr. Douglas D. Haislip (b. 20<sup>th</sup> C.)

Solid Brass Quartet

# OFFERTORY LBW 149 This Joyful Eastertide

## Verse 1

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
sprung to life this mor - row. Had Christ, who once was  
slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in  
vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -  
ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934  
Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in believing; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN ELW 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised and Dies No More



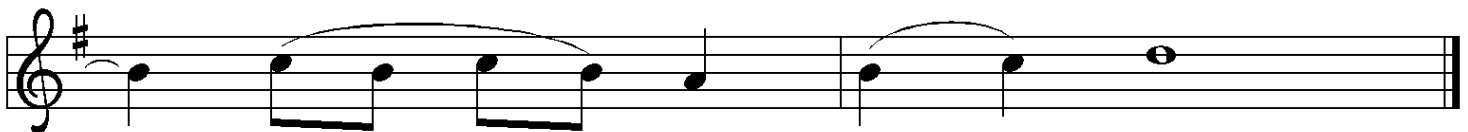
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** Setting of *Engelberg*

By Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

**REPRISE** Setting of “Aus meines Herzens Grunde”  
Recorder Ensemble

By J. S. Bach

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR:** URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

## **Ministers: The People of St. John’s**

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children’s Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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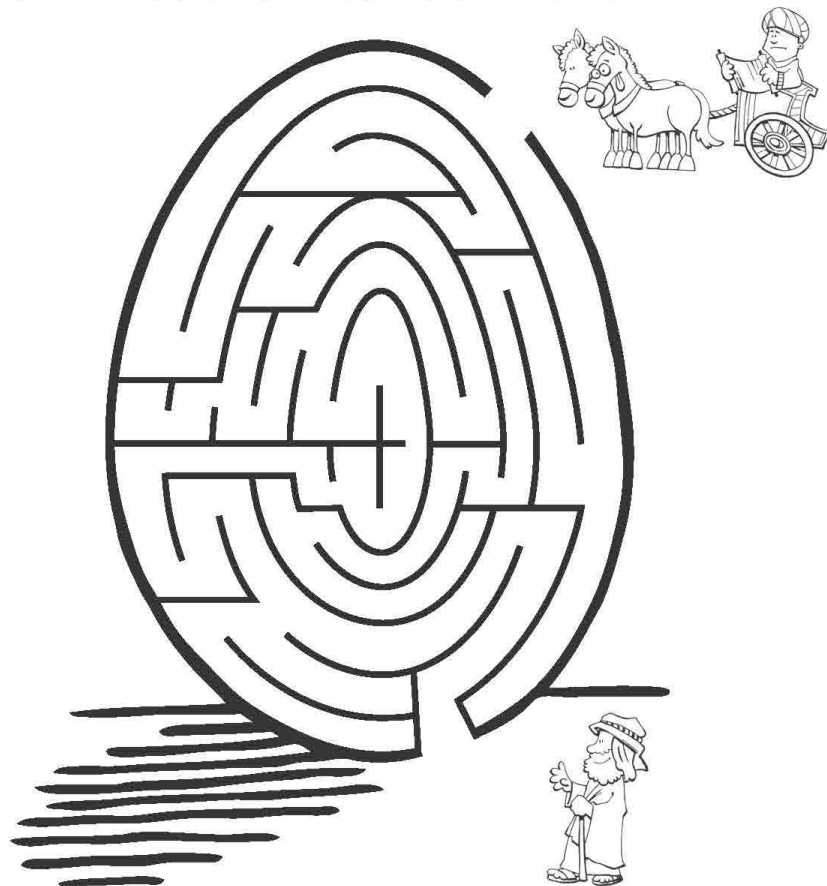


# PRE-READER

Easter 5

- Today is the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** in Easter.
- An important word during Easter is **Alleluia**.
- Alleluia means **Praise God!**

Many stories in the Bible happen on a road! The Ethiopian man met Philip on a desert road. The man was a long way from home. The Ethiopian man rode in a chariot. Philip walked on the road. When they met, Philip talked with him about Jesus. Do the maze to connect them to each other.



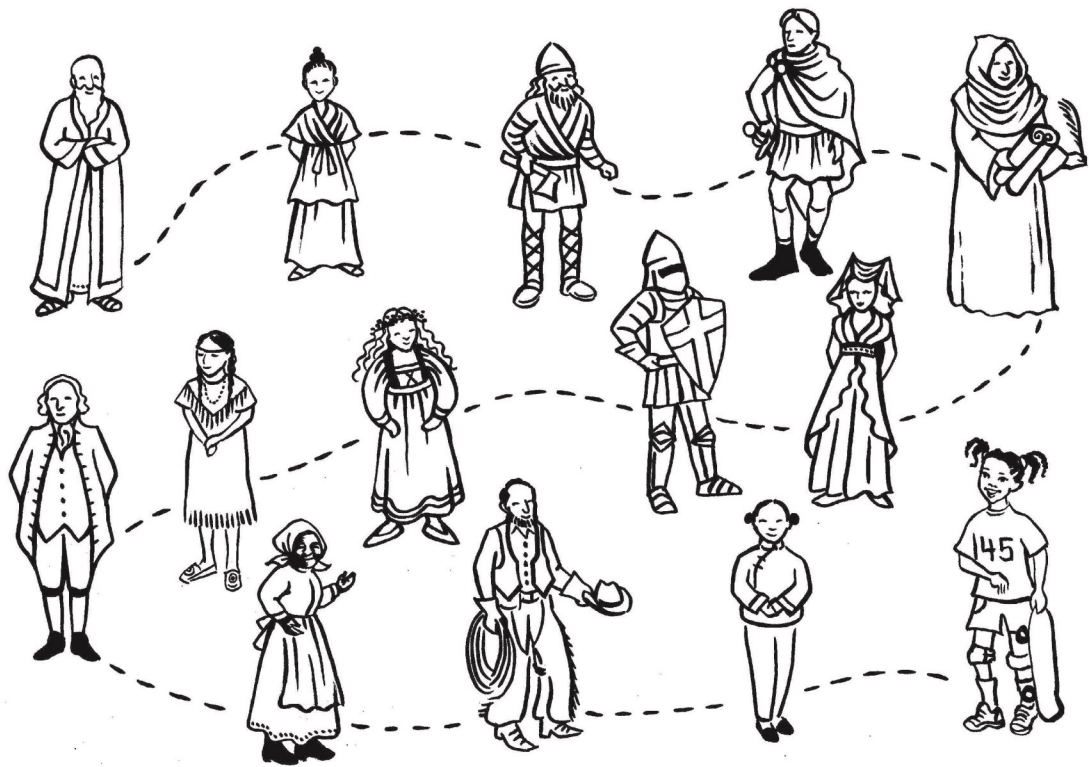


**Philip baptized the man, and God's love filled the man's heart.**



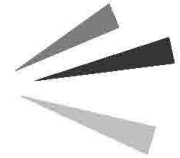
The Ethiopian man learned about Jesus from Philip. He promised to share the good news of Jesus. During this time, lots of people learned the good news!

**Connect all of God's children together to make a chain of storytellers. Mark each person with the sign of the cross. We can all share God's love!**



A creed is something that tells what you believe. Christians say creeds to share what they believe about God.

**Listen to the Apostles' Creed in worship.  
Then draw pictures to make your own  
creed. What will your pictures tell about  
God?**



I believe in God who made everything.

I believe in Jesus who died and rose again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is with me all  
the time.





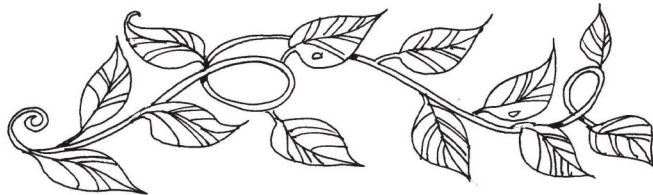
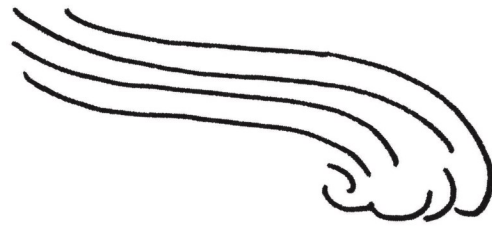
# READER

Easter 5

- Today is the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** in Easter.
- During the Easter season, Jesus **changes our lives**.
- Jesus is **always** with us.

## Jesus Loves Us

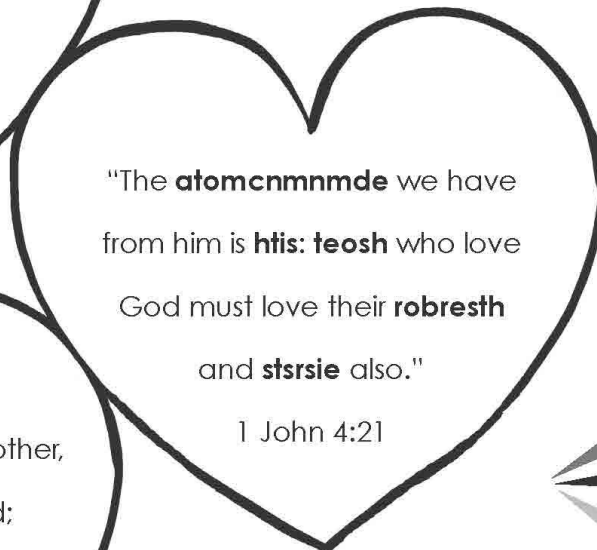
The Bible uses many different images to help us know about Jesus and his love for us. What does each image tell you about Jesus? Write or draw below.



# It's All about the Love

The book of 1 John is all about God's love. "We love God because he first loved us" John says in chapter 4, verse 19. How can we love others?

Look up 1 John 4:7-21 to learn more about God's powerful love! Then, unscramble the words in the hearts below to complete each message of love.



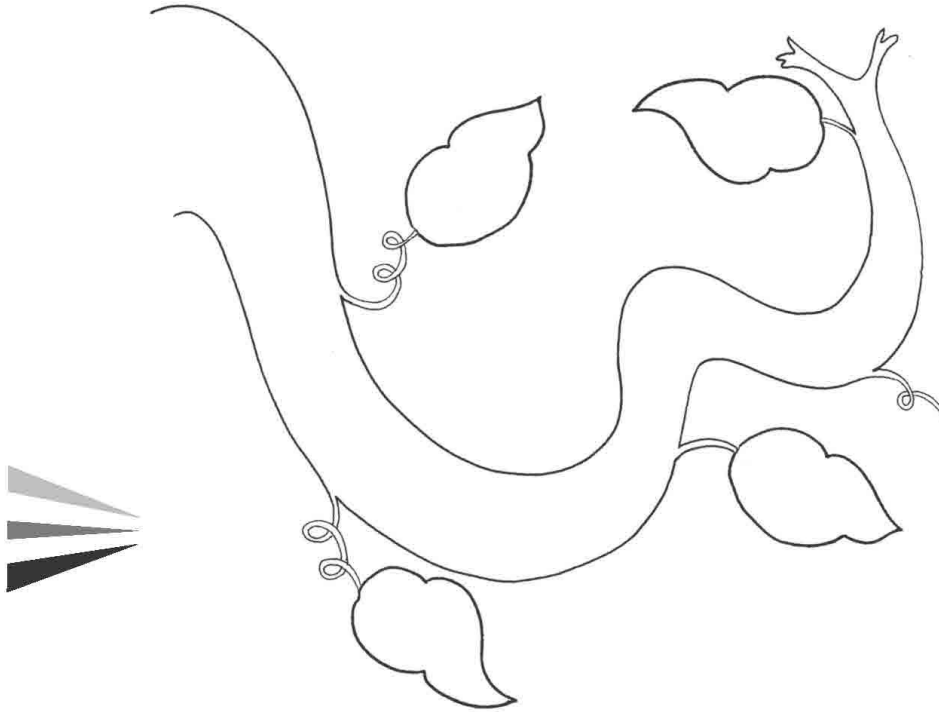
During Bible times, many followers of Jesus were skilled travelers. Sharing the gospel took them all over Jerusalem, Palestine, and Syria. In today's reading, an Ethiopian official traveled to Jerusalem. His journey was over 1,000 miles! Can you imagine traveling over 1,000 miles to hear the good news?



# Healthy Fruit, Healthy Vine

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Fruit cannot grow unless it is connected to a vine. We can't grow unless we are connected to God!

What are your strengths? Fill this vine with your strengths—thank God for giving you these gifts!



Jesus says he is the true vine of this world. Search the fruit of the vine to find the letters missing from the memory verse below.

## Memory Verse

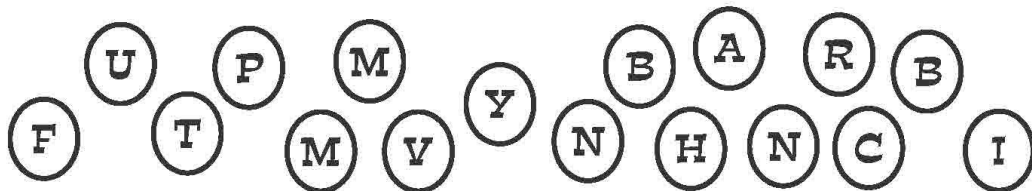


"I a \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ine, \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ are

the \_\_\_\_\_ ra \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ hes. Those who a \_\_\_\_\_ ide in

\_\_\_\_\_ e and \_\_\_\_\_ n them be \_\_\_\_\_ much \_\_\_\_\_ rui \_\_\_\_\_, because

a \_\_\_\_\_ art from me you can do \_\_\_\_\_ ot \_\_\_\_\_ ing." —John 15:5



# Jesus Hears Our Prayers

Jesus hears all of our prayers. He hears prayers of thanks, prayers for ourselves, prayers for others, and "I'm sorry" prayers.

What are your prayers today? Write or draw them here.

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU  
FOR...

DEAR GOD, I AM ASKING  
YOU TO HELP ME WITH...

DEAR GOD, I AM SORRY  
FOR...

DEAR GOD, I AM ASKING  
YOU TO HELP THIS PERSON...